

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089598

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR PROPERTY IN WASHINGTON

REF: (A) BERLIN 710; (B) STATE 82680

1. WHEN GDR PREFERENCE FOR FIRENZE ESTATE BECAME CLEAR LAST SEPTEMBER, DEPT. EXPLAINED TO VISITING GDR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM THAT CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION WOULD REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE PLANS TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUTHORITIES AND LENGTHY ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN APPROVAL. SAME POINT HAS BEEN MADE SEVERAL TIMES TO GDR REPS BY REALTORS AND BY DAVID HARRISON, WASHINGTON ATTORNEY RETAINED BY GDR.

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2. GDR COMMENTS IN REF A SUGGEST EAST GERMANS DO UNDER-

STAND FACTS INVOLVED BUT ARE LOOKING FOR EASY, BACKDOOR SOLUTION TO DIFFICULT ZONING MATTER. EAST GERMANS ALSO SEEM UNWILLING TO ACCEPT FACT THAT DEPARTMENT HAS NO DIRECT INFLUENCE OVER RULINGS BY ZONING COMMISSION AND COURTS.

3. DEPARTMENT STANDS READY AS IN PAST TO DO WHAT IT CAN FOR EAST GERMANS, BUT ZONING PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE WORKED OUT OVER EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME AND MAJOR PART OF TASK MUST BE HANDLED BY PRIVATE ATTORNEYS. MOREOVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN ADVANCE.

4. IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY REPS, MISSION SHOULD TAKE FIRM LINE BASED ON ABOVE. IT SHOULD ALSO INDICATE SEVERAL NEW ASPECTS TO WASHINGTON ZONING PROCEDURES HAVE RECENTLY COME TO LIGHT WHICH GDR MAY WISH TO CONSIDER BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION ON FIRENZE PROPERTY. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN WASHINGTON WITH GDR REPS (EITHER FROM EAST BERLIN OR GDR'S UN MISSION) AT ANY TIME. GDR COULD ALSO USE SUCH VISIT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM PRIVATE ATTORNEYS OR REALTORS IN D.C. AREA. RUSH

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